

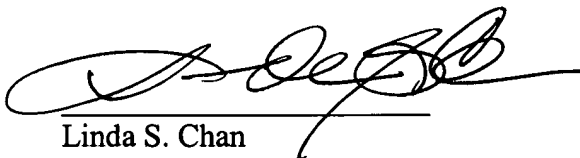
## **REMARKS**

A Notice of Allowance was mailed on May 16, 2005. Claims 1 - 39 are pending in the present application. Applicant files this Preliminary Amendment together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) disclosing a Japanese Office Action of May 17, 2005 and associated references. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant adds new claims 40 - 43. No new matter is introduced.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1, 2, 4 - 11, 13 - 20, 22 - 29, and 31 - 43, consisting of independent claims 1, 10, 19, 28 and 37 - 43, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he or she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda S. Chan  
Reg. No. 42,400

**CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304**

PHONE: (212) 940-8800

FAX: (212) 940-8776

Attorney Docket No.: SCEY 19.084 (100809-16313)